

NCTEAR 2026

NCTE Assembly for Research Conference



*Each Other's Bond:
Researching, Practicing, and
Sustaining Literacies of Love*

March 6-8, 2026

*The Pastides Alumni Center
The University of Carolina, Columbia, SC*

Eliza Braden, Conference Chair



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WELCOME

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business;
we are each other's magnitude and bond,"

Gwendolyn Brooks

Inspired by the wisdom of Gwendolyn Brooks, who reminds us that "we are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond," the 2026 NCTEAR conference envisions a transformative gathering of literacy scholars, educators, and community members, united by a shared commitment to the principles of love in research and teaching.

Our conference aims to highlight the profound impact of love (Wynter et al., 2019; Boutte et al., 2023) as a revolutionary force in the pursuit of educational equity and justice. In these challenging times, when the very essence of literature, literacies, and freedom of speech are under attack in P-12 classrooms, school boards, and college campuses, we are called to ask: Where is the love? How can we develop pedagogies and scholarship founded on love for students and communities?

We recognize that fighting against oppression in education is an act of love for humanity, as all individuals deserve dignity, freedom, and equitable opportunities. We ask, "What are the decolonizing methodologies and epistemologies that challenge dominant narratives and honor the rich literacies and languages of Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous students in schools and communities?"

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Eliza Braden, Chair

University of South Carolina

Welcome to the 2026 Conference of the **National Council of Teachers of English Assembly for Research (NCTEAR)**. Inspired by the wisdom of **Gwendolyn Brooks**, who reminds us that “we are each other’s harvest; we are each other’s business; we are each other’s magnitude and bond,” this year’s conference invites us to gather as a community committed to literacy, justice, and the transformative power of love in education. I extend my sincere thanks to the many, scholars, educators and community members who submitted proposals and shared their work. Your contributions make this conference a vibrant space where ideas, research, and classroom practices come together to strengthen our collective work.

We are especially grateful to those attending NCTEAR for the first time. Your presence brings new perspectives, new questions, and new energy to our community. At the same time, we warmly welcome back those who have joined us in previous years and continue to nurture the relationships and professional networks that sustain this organization. Together, first-time and returning participants embody the spirit of Brooks’s words reminding us that our growth as educators is deeply connected to one another.

This year’s theme calls us to reflect on love as a revolutionary act in literacy education and research. At a time when literature, literacies, and freedom of expression face increasing challenges in P–12 schools and universities, we are invited to ask difficult but necessary questions: Where is the love in our work? How might our teaching, scholarship, and advocacy reflect a deep commitment to students, families, and communities? Across the conference sessions, we hope you encounter ideas that illuminate pedagogies rooted in care, justice, and equity. We hope you leave with approaches that challenge dominant narratives and honor the rich literacies and languages of Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous students, families and communities.

As you participate in conversations, presentations, and collaborations throughout the conference, we hope you leave with renewed inspiration and practical insights for your classrooms and communities. More importantly, we hope this gathering reminds us that our work is collective. When we support one another’s research, teaching, and advocacy, we strengthen the possibilities for literacy education that affirms dignity, expands freedom, and creates more just educational spaces for all learners. Thank you for being part of the NCTEAR 2026 conference.

NCTEAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Eliza Braden, Chair
University of South Carolina



Cati V. de los Ríos, Associate Chair
University of California, Berkeley



P. Zitlali Morales, Secretary
University of Illinois Chicago



Ozge Yalciner, Treasurer
University of Kentucky



Axa Khalid Warraich, News Editor
The Ohio State University



Dorian Harrison, Past Chair
The Ohio State University

NCTEAR COMMITTEES

Awards Committee



Kierstin Giunco, Chair
University of Cincinnati



Jon Wargo, Member
University of Michigan



Alex Corbitt, Member
Syracuse University



Cassie Brownell, Member
University of Toronto

Mentoring Committee



Sanjuana Rodriguez, Co-Chair
Kennesaw State University



Roberta Gardner, Co-Chair
Kennesaw State University



Kathleen Riley, Member
West Chester University

Communications Committee



Mohit Mehta, Co-Chair
Texas State University



Tara Warmerdam, Co-Chair
Fresno Pacific University



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The conference could not have been successful without the commitment and dedication of many individuals. I sincerely thank you for your support.

Axa Khalid Warriach, The Ohio State University
Dr. Susi Long, University of South Carolina
Dr. Gloria Boutte, University of South Carolina
Dr. Meir Muller, University of South Carolina
Dr. Cathy Lilly, University of South Carolina
Dr. Julia Lopez Robertson, University of South Carolina
Dr. Yang Wang, University of South Carolina
Dr. Kamania Wynter Hoyte, University of South Carolina
Mrs. Janice Baines, University of South Carolina
Dr. Toni Williams, University of South Carolina
Tempesstt Johnson, University of South Carolina
Tyler Santiago, University of South Carolina
Kerwin Johnson, University of South Carolina
Lan Jin, University of South Carolina
Shazia Hamid, University of South Carolina
Dr. Jarvis Jackson, Indiana University, Indianapolis
Dr. Mohit Mehta, Texas State University



NCTEAR CONFERENCE 2026

Program overview

Friday, March 6

07:45 am – 01:45 pm	Pre-Conference Visit
12:00 pm	Registration Opens
03:00 pm	Welcome & Celebration
	Opening Keynote – Dr. Patriann Smith
05:30 pm – 08:00 pm	Reception

Saturday, March 7

07:30 am – 08:25 am	Mentoring Workshop
08:00 am – 08:30 am	Welcome & Continental Breakfast
08:30 am – 09:15 am	Keynote – Dr. Gloria Boutte
09:30 am – 10:45 am	Concurrent Sessions
10:55 am – 12:10 pm	Concurrent Sessions
12:15 pm – 01:15 pm	Lunch & Mentoring Workshops
01:20 pm – 02:20 pm	Plenary
02:30 pm – 03:45 pm	Concurrent Sessions
03:55 pm – 04:00 pm	Performance
04:00 pm – 05:00 pm	Townhall

Sunday, March 8

08:00 am – 08:30 am	Welcome & Breakfast
08:30 am – 09:15 am	Keynote – Dr. Natasha Thornton
09:30 am – 10:45 am	Concurrent Sessions
10:55 am – 12:10 pm	Concurrent Sessions
12:15 pm – 01:15 pm	Lunch & Plenary
01:30 pm – 02:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions
02:45 pm – 03:00 pm	Closing

FRIDAY KEYNOTE



Patriann Smith

University of South Florida

Dr. Patriann Smith is a Saint Lucian American expert on language and literacy who currently serves as Associate Dean of Faculty Success & Excellence and as Professor of Literacy Studies at the University of South Florida. A globally recognized educational, inspirational, and motivational keynote speaker (e.g., United Nations) and professional (e.g., UNESCO, OECS), her research emerges at the intersection of race, language, and immigration, with an emphasis on transculturally, transracially, and translanguistically responsive literacy and assessment practices. She is the author of numerous scholarly works (e.g., *American Educational Research Journal*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*) and the recipient of numerous awards (e.g., AERA, ILA, LRA). Among these is the Modern Language Association (MLA) Mina P. Shaughnessy Honorable Mention for her Teachers College Press book “Black Immigrant Literacies: Intersections of Race, Language, and Culture in the Classroom” (2023, Foreword by Shondel Nero). She is the Co-Founder of the USAID-funded RISE Caribbean Educational Research Center (CERC) and the recently elected President of the Literacy Research Association (LRA: 2024–2028). Her most recent book is “Literacies of Migration: Translanguaging Imaginaries of Innocence” (2024, Forewords by Allison Skerrett & Awad Ibrahim; Afterword by Ramón Martínez), published by Cambridge University Press.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

<p>07:45 - 01:45 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pre-Conference</p> <p>Registered attendees will visit Jackson Creek Elementary and the USC Anne Frank Center *A chartered bus will provide transportation to and from the Hilton Columbia/Pastides Alumni Center to the pre-conference sites</p>
<p>12:00 pm</p>	<p>Pastides Alumni Center Registration Opens</p>
<p>03:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome and Performances</p> <p>Ballroom Greetings: Dr. Eliza Braden, NCTEAR Chair and Professor of Literacy Education, University of South Carolina</p> <p>Welcome & Distinguished Guests: Dr. Angie Baum, Interim Dean of the College of Education, University of South Carolina Representative Jermaine Jackson, SC House of Representatives, District 52 Dr. Damara Hightower, Chief Executive Officer, Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation (EPI Center) Mrs. Lesley Snyder, Associate Director, USC Center of Educational Partnerships</p> <p>Performers: Gye Nyame Dance Ensemble and Namu Drum Company Pontiac Steppers, Pontiac Elementary School</p> <p>Opening Keynote Speaker: Dr. Patriann Smith, University of South Florida</p>
<p>05:30 - 08:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reception</p> <p>The South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201 NCTEAR and NAI South Carolina Interpreters Mini-Conference Joint Reception</p>

SATURDAY KEYNOTE



Gloria Swindler Boutte
University of South Carolina

Dr. Gloria Swindler Boutte is a Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina. Her scholarship focuses on equity pedagogies. She is the author/editor of eight books: (1) *Pro-Blackness in Early Childhood Education. Diversifying Curriculum and Pedagogy in K-3 Classrooms*; (2) *Revolutionary Love: Nurturing the brilliance of young Black children*; (3) *Educating African American Students: And how are the children* (2nd edition); (4) *We Be Lovin' Black Children: Becoming Learning to Be Literate About the African Diaspora* (2022 Society of Professors of Education Outstanding Book Award); (5) *African Diaspora Literacy: The Heart of Transformation in K-12 Schools and Teacher Education* (2019 AESA Critics Choice Award) (6) *Educating African American Students: And how are the children*; (7) *Resounding Voices: School Experiences of People From Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds*; and (8) *Multicultural Education: Raising Consciousness*. She has more than 100 publications and has presented nationally and internationally. She has received prestigious awards such as the Fulbright Scholar; Fulbright Specialist; 2020 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Outstanding Educator in the English Language Arts—Elementary Section; the 2021 AERA Division K Legacy award; and AERA 2022-23 Fellow Award; the 2025 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Social Justice in Education Award. She was the founder and Executive Director of the Center for the Education and Equity of African American Students (CEEAAAS). She has served as a Visiting Scholar and presented her work internationally on every continent except for Antarctica.

Dr. Boutte is the mother of three children and seven grandchildren.

SATURDAY PLENARY

Beyond the Science of Reading: Research, Equity, and Classroom Realities



A History of Reading Research and the Science of Reading
Presenter: Cathy Compton-Lily, University of South Carolina



Black Translanguaging: Calling for a Collective Black
Translanguaging Approach to Phonics Instruction
Presenters: Alice Lee, University of California, Riverside
Teaira McMurdy, University of Alabama at Birmingham



Science of Reading or Science of Retention?
Presenter: Paul Thomas, Furman University



"Après Déluge, Nous" –Proactive Strategy in the Twilight of
SOR
Presenter: George Hruby, University of Kentucky (retired)

SATURDAY TOWNHALL

Our Magnitude and Bond:
Countering Hostile Policies with Collective Care



LaTisha Vaughn
E3 Foundation



Craig Logan
E3 Foundation



Tayler Simon
Activist, Poet
Liberation is Lit Bookstore



Courtney Thomas
ACLU of South Carolina

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

07:30 - 08:25 am	<p>Conference Room 1A Mentoring Session: Navigating the Academy (Participants preregister via links)</p>
08:00 - 08:30 am	<p>Ballroom: Continental Breakfast Performer: Camp Discover STEAM Academy Hilltop Players, Horrel Hill Elementary School</p>
08:30 - 09:15 am	<p>Ballroom Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gloria Boutte, University of South Carolina</p>
09:30 - 10:45 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable Sessions</p> <p>Roundtable 1: Ballroom City Walks and Collage-Making as Entangled Literacy Practices with Filipino Immigrant Youth in Montréal Presenter(s): Cris Barabas, Bishop's University & McGill University</p> <p>Hip Hop as Poetry Presenter(s): Guy Hill (Triton High School/Harnett County Schools)</p> <p>Roundtable 2: Ballroom Bibliotherapy & Black Girlhood: A Participatory Action Research Book Club For And By Black Girls Presenter(s): Reka Barton, University of Maryland; Destiny Hunter, University of Maryland</p> <p>#NerdOutLoud: Black Girls' Self-Directed Learning Practices on Social Media Presenter(s): Nicole Ferguson-Sams, Clemson University</p> <p>Roundtable 3: Ballroom "This Voice has More to Say": Using Photovoice with Racially and Linguistically Diverse Students to Celebrate Love for Self, Culture, and Community Presenter(s): Darlene Russell, William Paterson University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Sessions</p> <p>Conference Room 1A Literacies of Love: Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Crystal Chen Lee (AF) Presenter(s): Angela Wiseman, North Carolina State University; Emmanuel Anyetei Kojo Akogyeram, North Carolina State University; Maria Heysha Carrillo, North Carolina State University; Caitlin Donovan, Duke University; Samantha Duke, North Carolina State University; Haleema Khalil, North Carolina State University; (continued on next page)</p>

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Majid Komasi, North Carolina State University; Amber Moore, North Carolina State University; Janell Miller, North Carolina State University; Jennifer Mann, Duke University; Lauren Oliver Chapel Hill Schools; Jackie Relyea, North Carolina State University; Jennifer Turner, University of Maryland; Alicia Whitley, North Carolina State University

Conference Room 1B

Cultivating Each Other's Harvest: Humanizing Literacy Research within the Ed.D. (AF)

Presenter(s): Kathleen Riley, West Chester University; Alicia Benjamin, West Chester University; Sarah Hyson, West Chester University; Sara Mohler, West Chester University; Kaitlyn Rodgers, West Chester University; Kelly Rorvik, West Chester University

Conference Room 1C

AI-Enabled Culturally Relevant Narrative-Based Pedagogy: Engaging Diverse STEM Learners and Preparing Teachers for Culturally Sustaining Classrooms

Presenter(s): Nitin Jain, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Eliza Braden, University of South Carolina

Love as Frameshift: Using Historically Relevant Literacy to Enact Love in Reading Intervention

09:30 - 10:45 am

Presenter(s): Mack Chandler, University of Illinois Chicago

Conference Room 2A

Black Girls' Poetic Knowledge and Literacies of Love

Presenter(s): Barrett Rosser, Morgan State University

Culturally and Historically Responsive Literature Circles: Advocating for Love in the Literacy Classroom

Presenter(s): Beth Spinner, Ferris State University

Conference Room 2B

Improvement Science in Action: Empirical Evidence of Teacher-Led Literacy Gains (AF)

Presenter(s): Damara Hightower Mitchell, Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation; Tondaleya G. Jackson, Center of Excellence; Stacey Wilson, Center of Excellence; Jennifer Logan, Center of Excellence

Conference Room 2C

Cultivating Feminist Critical Cariño and a Community-Centered, Radical Love in Bilingual Teacher Preparation Programs

Presenter(s): Angela Maria Villamizar, University of Texas at Austin

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

09:30 - 10:45 am

Bridging Current Events: Critical Media Literacy and Literacies of Love in Teacher Preparation

Presenter(s): Celina-Maria Espinosa de Rosales, University of South Carolina

Conference Room 3A

Revolutionary Love: A Critical Approach for Teaching Young Writers

Presenter(s): Michele Myers, Wake Forest University

Between Fidelity and Freedom: Early-Career Teachers (Re)Visioning Writing as a Practice of Love

Presenter(s): Kerry Alexander, University of Maryland; Shiyong Song, University of Maryland

10:55 - 12:10 pm

Roundtable Sessions

Roundtable 1: Ballroom

Decolonizing the canon: Using Culturally Relevant Pedagogy and Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy in the Teaching of Literature

Presenter(s): Kerwin Johnson, University of South Carolina; Mary Styslinger, University of South Carolina; Tempestt Johnson, University of South Carolina

Critical Conversations in Context: Book Clubs as Sites for Racial Literacy Development

Presenter(s): Katie McGee, Clemson University

Roundtable 2: Ballroom

Beyond Risk: Posthumanist Reimaginings of Early Childhood Readiness as Literacies of Love

Presenter(s): Tory Pennington, University of South Carolina Upstate; Lindsey Rowe, Clemson University

Roundtable 3: Ballroom:

Children in Action During Uncertain Times: Rural Literacies and Place-Based Learning as Pathways to Sustainability

Presenter(s): Jue Wang, University of Idaho; Xiaoli Etienne, University of Idaho

S.T.E.M. Learning in two Black Baptist Churches

Presenter(s): Salondra Griggs, University of South Carolina

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Concurrent Sessions

Conference Room 1A

Love as Constellation: Black Women Teacher Educators Mapping Pedagogies of Connection and Resistance (AF)

Presenter(s): Latrise Johnson, University of Alabama; Rhonda Hylton, Indiana University Bloomington; Kristie Smith, Kennesaw State University; Shimikqua Ellis, Murray State University (AF)

Conference Room 1B

Critical English Education in Critical Times: Insights from Doing the Work Across Four Universities in the Deep South (Symposium)

Presenter(s): Mike Cook, Auburn University; Heidi Hadley, Auburn University; Tierney Hinman, Auburn University; Lindsey Ives, Auburn University; Jake Crow, Auburn University; Karen Spector, University of Alabama; Latrise Johnson, University of Alabama; Abdulmalik Salman, University of Alabama; Keith Beard, University of Alabama; Ryan Schey, University of Georgia; Rebekah Adams, University of Georgia; Morgan Fetsko, University of Georgia; Caroline Rabalais, Georgia State University; Nozipho Moyo, Georgia State University

Conference Room 1C

Memory Workers as Community Sustainers and Pedagogues (Symposium)

Presenter(s): Erica Veal, Research Archivist & Interpretation Coordinator, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture; Neysa Williams, Community Relations Manager, International African American Museum; Tamara Butler, Executive Director, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture

Conference Room 2A

Meeting Her – Generating Shared Meanings through Multimodal Transmediations with Poetry (AF)

Presenter(s): Ruchi Pathak, The Ohio State University

Conference Room 2B

Reading Together, Rising Together: Love, Agency, and Collective Meaning-Making (Symposium)

Presenter(s): Betsy Beckert, Boston University; Laura Jiménez, Boston University; Ashley Houston-King, Boston University

Conference Room 2C

The Village Teaches: A Participatory Action Research Performance of Collective Professional Learning (AF)

10:55 - 12:10 pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

10:55 - 12:10 pm

Presenter(s): Mary Jade Haney, Librarian, Horrell Hill Elementary School, Richland County School District One; Laura Haney, Richland District One and Sankofa STEAM Academy; Erica Jennings, Horrell Hill Elementary School, Richland County School District One; Deedra Lee, Southeast Middle School, Richland County School District One; Katie Purushotham, Horrell Hill Elementary School; Stephanie Lloyd, Horrell Hill Elementary School, Richland County School District One

Conference Room 3A

Making Meaning Visible: Diverse Readers, Diverse Insights from the Reading Process (Symposium)

Presenter(s): Yang Wang, University of South Carolina; Ismahan Arslan-Ari, University of South Carolina; Maha AlAmri, University of South Carolina; Carly Bland, University of South Carolina; Lan Jin, University of South Carolina; Tiffany Palmatier, University of South Carolina; Kelsy Robbins, University of South Carolina; Jing Zhang, University of South Carolina

12:15 - 01:15 pm

Lunch & Mentoring Sessions

Conference Room 1A

Mentoring Session: Your Work Belongs Here: Writing for the Scholarly Record

A discussion panel featuring editors from various literacy journals. The editors will outline their journals' missions and scopes, and respond to audience questions.

The Reading Teacher, Research in the Teaching of English, Journal of Children's Literature, Reading Research Quarterly, The ALAN Review

Conference Room 1B

Mentoring Session: Writing Our Work: How Educators Turn Practice into Scholarship

An interactive session designed for educators to learn how to document their experiences and narratives from the field.

01:20 - 02:20 pm

Ballroom

Plenary Session: Beyond the Science of Reading: Research, Equity, and Classroom Realities

Presenter(s): Beth Hawkins, University of South Carolina; Alice Lee, University of California, Riverside; Teaira McMurtry, The University of Alabama at Birmingham; Paul Thomas, Furman University; George Hruby, University of Kentucky; Catherine Compton-Lilly, University of South Carolina

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Roundtable Sessions

Roundtable 1: Ballroom

A Design Based Research Approach to Supporting Bilingual Preschool Children's Early Literacy Through Parent-Teacher Collaboration

Presenter(s): Oluwaseun Oti, University of Northern Iowa; Natalie Owens, University of Northern Iowa

Cultivating Each Other's Harvest through Co-design

Presenter(s): Molly Marek, University of Texas at Austin

Roundtable 2: Ballroom

From Coursework to Classroom: The Impact of Professional Development for Teachers of Multilingual Learners

Presenter(s): Nicole Ferguson-Sams, Clemson University; Lindsey Rowe, Clemson University; Emily Howell, Clemson University; Alexis Lawton, Clemson University

Roundtable 3: Ballroom:

Sources of Love: Sustaining Each Other's Bond from Full Reserves

Presenter(s): Teaira McMurtry, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Concurrent Sessions

Conference Room 1A

Queer and Trans Literacies and Pedagogies of Care: Centering Queer and Trans Humanity, Joy, and Connection in Painful Times (AF)

Presenter(s): Jill M. Hermann-Wilmarth, Western Michigan University; Ryan Schey, University of Georgia; Jay Maddock, Radical Health and Wellness; Mollie Blackburn, The Ohio State University; Sarah Hyson, West Chester University; Summer Davis, Western Michigan University; Caitlin L. Ryan, University of North Carolina Wilmington; Craig Young, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania; Jen McLaughlin-Cahill, University of Pennsylvania; shea wesley martin, The Ohio State University

Conference Room 1B

What's Love Got to Do With It?: Pro-Black Pedagogies in a Time of Curricular Censorship (Symposium)

Presenter(s): Eliza Braden, University of South Carolina; Susi Long, University of South Carolina; Sabina Mosso-Taylor, Richland School District 2; Saudah Collins, Richland School District 2; Kyanna Samuel, Richland School District 2; Brianna Simmons, Richland School District 2; Jacqui Witherspoon, Richland School District 2; Valente Gibson, Richland School District 2; Jennipher Frazier, Richland School District 2

02:30 - 03:45 pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Conference Room 1C

Lovin' Black Language: A Critical Content Analysis of Black Picture Books

Presenter(s): Natasha Thornton, Spelman College; Amanda Latasha Armstrong, RISER Network; Brooke Blacknall, Spelman College; Destani Butler, Spelman College; Kasha Finlay, Spelman College; Myah Ellis, Spelman College; Jordan Freeman, Morehouse College; Jada Holloway, Spelman College; Lauren Thomas, Spelman College

Culturally Sustaining Human Geographies in Literature for Children

Presenter(s): Sanjuana Rodriguez, Kennesaw State University; Roberta Gardner, Kennesaw State University

We Are Each Other's Business: Addressing Antiracist Racism in Literacy Classrooms and Beyond

Presenter(s): Stephanie Jones, Grinnell College

Conference Room 2A

Uplifting Multilingual Literacies: Exploring Languages and Dialects in Educational Contexts (AF)

Presenter(s): Yang Wang, University of South Carolina; Maha AlAmri, University of South Carolina; Carly Bland, University of South Carolina; Shazia Hamid, University of South Carolina; Lan Jin, University of South Carolina; CoCo Li, Chapin Intermediate School; Tiffany Palmatier, University of South Carolina / Center for Inquiry; Kelsy Robbins, University of South Carolina; Jing Zhang, University of South Carolina / Carver Lyon Elementary

Conference Room 2B

"I've found home here where I don't have to hide": Queer Rural Place-Based Pedagogy

Presenter(s): Josh Thompson, Virginia Tech

Labors of Love and Digital Literacies: A Queer Musician's Online Legacy

Presenter(s): Issy Márquez, University of Illinois Chicago

Conference Room 2C

"I got my nana": Armed Love and Abuelita Epistemologies Across Languages, Cultures, and Borders

Presenter(s): Vania Ledesma Espino, University of Texas at Austin; Marcelino J. Saucedo, University of Texas at Austin

02:30 - 03:45 pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

<p>02:30 - 03:45 pm</p>	<p>Artifacts of Home: Culturally Sustaining Literacies through Storytelling Presenter(s): Julia Lynch, University of North Carolina Wilmington; Kaya Richardson, Belvoir Elementary</p> <p>Conference Room 3A Navigating Young Girls' Multimodal Literacy Practices on TikTok Presenter(s): Jue Wang, University of Idaho</p> <p>Authoring Self-Love: Black Girls' Digital Storytelling as Literacies of Love Presenter(s): Autumn Griffin, University of North Carolina at Charlotte</p> <p>The Literacies School Never Measured: How Could the Curriculum Honor My Parents' Knowledge? Presenter(s): Jubara Abusin, Pennsylvania State University</p>
<p>03:55 - 04:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Performance</p> <p>Ballroom Performer(s): Shiyang CoCo Li, Chapin Intermediate School; Performance: Bào Huā Míng, Reciting the Flower Names is a famous excerpt from the Beijing Opera, Selling Water. It has delighted audiences in China for generations. In this scene, a young maid calls out as she sells water, joyfully reciting various names of blooming flowers. This energetic solo poetic song features rapid and rhythmic singing, playful movements, and usage of a traditional Chinese folding fan. This piece showcases the linguistic beauty and rhythmic precision of traditional Beijing Opera, offering a glimpse into the rich artistry of one of the world's great theatrical traditions.</p>
<p>04:00 - 05:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NCTEAR Town Hall</p> <p>Ballroom Our Magnitude and Bond: Countering Hostile Policies with Collective Care Presenter(s): LaTisha Vaughn, E3 Foundation; Craig Logan, E3 Foundation; Tayler Simon, Activist, Poet, Liberation is Lit Bookstore; Courtney Thomas, ACLU of South Carolina</p>

SUNDAY KEYNOTE



Natasha Thornton
Spelman College

Dr. Natasha Thornton received her Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning with a concentration in Language and Literacy Education from Georgia State University. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher, which inspired her interest in culturally responsive literacy development. She has also served as a 4th grade teacher, literacy coach and educational consultant. Additionally, Dr. Thornton has supported various non-profit organizations with developing culturally responsive courses, fellowships, and coaching programs for educators. Dr. Thornton's research and practice focus on culturally responsive literacy instruction, curriculum that affirms the histories and identities of Black children, and the intersection of teachers' beliefs and practices. Her co-authored book, "Revolutionary love: Creating a Culturally Inclusive Literacy Classroom" highlights the beliefs, knowledge, and practices of teachers who love their students by affirming and building up on their cultural and linguistic resources and practices during literacy instruction. As a teacher educator, Dr. Thornton's work in the classroom is guided by the rich legacy of scholarship and pedagogical traditions of Black educators, which are rooted in love, culturally responsiveness, collective responsibility, and critical consciousness.

Dr. Thornton's educational philosophy is encapsulated in these guiding words by Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, III, "It is imperative for the curriculum we teach to support the development of purpose, calling, and belonging of Black children, and educators as well".

SUNDAY PLENARY

Bold, Black, and Beautiful: HBCUs as Models of Love, Liberation and Resistance in Teacher Education and Research

Session Chairs



Natasha Thornton
Spelman College



Kamania Wynter-Hoyte
NC A&T/University of South Carolina



Khalilah Bodhisattva Ali
Spelman College

Moderator

Panelists



Janise Baines
University of South Carolina



Fatima Brunson
Spelman College



Tamata Butler
Xavier University



Kristian Douglas
Clark University



Gwenda Greene
Voorhees University



Cynthia R. Johnson
Spelman College



Damara Hightower Mitchell
Voorhees University



Dywanna Smith
Claflin University

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

08:00 - 08:30 am	Ballroom: Continental Breakfast
08:30 - 09:15 am	Ballroom Keynote Speaker: Dr. Natasha Thornton, Spelman College
09:30 - 10:45 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable Sessions</p> <p>Roundtable 1: Ballroom Transcending Boundaries: Enacting Decolonial Approaches across Educational Spaces Presenter(s): Kerwin Johnson, University of South Carolina; Tempestt Johnson, University of South Carolina; Tyler Santiago, University of South Carolina; Talia Gordon, University of South Carolina; D’Arion Johnston, University of South Carolina; Jazmine Hasty, University of South Carolina</p> <p>Roundtable 2: Ballroom Planning for Translanguaging: Pre-Service Teachers’ Translanguaging Instructional Moves in Literacy Unit Plans Presenter(s): Lindsey Rowe, Clemson University; Jeremiah Farmer, Clemson University; Kate McGee, Clemson University; Shay Jackson, Clemson University</p> <p>Roundtable 3: Ballroom Inquiry Design for Multilingual Learners: Exploring Teachers’ Beliefs, Practices, and Pedagogical Approaches Presenter(s): Alexis Lawton, Clemson University; Lindsey Rowe, Clemson University; Emily Howell, Clemson University; Nicole Ferguson-Sams, Clemson University</p> <p>Exploring Critical Multimodal Composing in Multilingual EFL Classrooms Presenter(s): Xiaoyun Song, University of Massachusetts Amherst</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Sessions</p> <p>Conference Room 1A Bookmarks as Bonds: Reclaiming Reading as Love, Memory, and Emotional Justice in the Lives of Educators Presenter(s): Roberta Price Gardner, Kennesaw State University; Myra Langley, Kennesaw State University</p>



SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Becoming-with Texts and Students: A Collaborative Self-Study of Multicultural Children's Literature

Presenter(s): Meghan Whitfield, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Catherine Swift, Mount Holyoke College

Conference Room 1B

What Early Literacy Data Reveals and Conceals: Educator Interpretations in Predominantly Black Communities in Georgia

Presenter(s): Shekesha Jefferson Owens, Alabama A&M University

Bridging the Science of Reading with Asset-Based, Identity-Affirming Literacy Practices

Presenter(s): Virginia Jackson, Kennesaw State University

Conference Room 1C

Thorns & Roses: Pairing & Teaching YA Literature and Trauma Artifacts

Presenter(s): Christina Romero, Indiana University Kokomo

09:30 - 10:45 am

Paws, Paper, and Presence: How a Therapy Dog Promotes Educational and Emotional Support in a Migrant Camp

Presenter(s): Brittany Beeker, Clemson University

Conference Room 2A

Braiding the Bard: Exploring Conscience, Ecology, and Identity in Literature (AF)

Presenter(s): Amber Dumbuya, Murray State University

Conference Room 2B

Silent Narratives, Shared Humanity: A Thematic Analysis of International Wordless Picturebooks (AF)

Presenter(s): Jared S. Crossley, The Ohio State University – Marion; Lisa Pinkerton, The Ohio State University – Columbus

Conference Room 2C

The Village Teaches: A Participatory Action Research Performance of Collective Professional Learning (AF)

Presenter(s): Mary Jade Haney, Librarian, Horrell Hill Elementary School, Richland County School District One; Laura Haney, Richland District One, Sankofa STEAM Academy



SUNDAY, MARCH 8

09:30 - 10:45 am

Conference Room 3A

Realia as a Literacy Bridge for Multilingual Learners

Presenter(s): Lydiah Kiramba, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Misty Banks Noon, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Abisola Aijeola, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Hybrid Spaces in Practice: How Teacher Inquiry Groups Shape Multilingual Literacy Instruction

Presenter(s): Heather Dunham, Clemson University

10:55 - 12:10 pm

Roundtable Sessions

Roundtable 1: Ballroom

Books About Banning Books: A Critical Content Analysis of Contemporary Youth Literature

Presenter(s): Danielle Sachdeva, University of North Georgia

The Production of Literacy during School District Takeover

Presenter(s): Cory Brautigam, Pennsylvania State University

Roundtable 2: Ballroom

Exploring Body Representation in Pura Belpré Award-Winning and Honor Picturebooks

Presenter(s): Aila do Carmo Sant'Anna, University of Georgia

Roundtable 3: Ballroom

Storytelling in Community to Challenge and Sustain Our Shared Identities and Histories

Presenter(s): Emily Cobb, Clemson University; Brittany Beeker, Clemson University

Playing in Class: Youth's Multi-Modal Storying of Curiosity

Presenter(s): Mary (Katie) Bielecki, Michigan State University

Roundtable 4: Ballroom

Hearts First, Minds Forever: A Transformative Journey for Preservice Teachers' Wellness, Cooperative Learning, and Literacy

Presenter(s): Devin Randolph, University of South Carolina; Courtney Sims, Leaphart Elementary



SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Concurrent Sessions

Conference Room 1A

“You’re representing a movement larger than yourself”: Counter-storytelling and solidarity-building in the teaching of Palestine

Presenter(s): Rubén A. González, University at Buffalo; Haia Z. Haidari, The Ohio State University

The Flawed Birth of Relevance: Re-examining the Foundations of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy

Presenter(s): Jennifer Weed, University of South Carolina

Conference Room 1B

Teaching With and For Love: Building Bonds Between University Students, Faculty, and Ninth Graders Through Foundational Literacy Instruction

Presenter(s): Heidi Lyn Hadley, Auburn University; Tierney Hinman, Auburn University

Conference Room 1C

Teaching While Afraid: Navigating Fear, Policy, and Care in Inclusive Literacy Practice

Presenter(s): Rachelle Savitz, East Carolina University

Circulating Discourses: The Global Flow of Narrow Literacy Discourses and Instructional Practices

Presenter(s): Catherine Compton-Lilly, University of South Carolina

Conference Room 2A

Holding Space: Educators in Dialogue on Resilience, Reflection, and Care (AF)

Presenter(s): Meir Muller, University of South Carolina

Conference Room 2B

“Taking Care of Someone the Way You Want to Be Taken Care Of”: Immigrant Children’s Reflections on Care (Symposium)

Presenter(s): Rosangela Araujo Silva, University of Georgia; Mariana Lima Becker, University of Georgia

10:55 – 12:10 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

10:55 - 12:10 pm

Conference Room 2C

Navigating Censorship: Preservice Teachers' Awareness and Agency in the Era of Book Bans

Presenter(s): Jessica Murdter-Atkinson, University of North Texas; Rachel Ranschaert, University of North Texas

(Un)Comic Metaphorical Illustrations of Teachers' Censorship Worries

Presenter(s): Ricki Ginsberg, Colorado State University; Wendy Glenn, University of Connecticut

Conference Room 3A

Braiding Stories and Strengths: Cuentos and the Weaving of Community Cultural Wealth

Presenter(s): Julia López-Robertson, Professor, University of South Carolina; Melissa Summer Wells, Associate Professor, University of Mary Washington; María del Rocío Herron, Pre-K Teacher, Jackson Creek Elementary School, and Mary Jade Haney, Librarian, Horrell Hill Elementary School

Cuentos Del Comunidad: Community Mapping with Preservice Teachers

Presenter(s): Mónica Baldonado-Ruiz, San Diego State University

12:15 - 01:15 pm

Lunch & Plenary Session

Ballroom

Bold, Black, and Beautiful: HBCUs as Models of Love, Liberation and Resistance in Teacher Education and Research

Chairs: Natasha Thornton, Spelman College, and Kamania Wynter-Hoyte, NC A&T/University of South Carolina

Moderator: Khalilah Bodhisattva Ali, Spelman College

Panel: Fatima Brunson, Spelman College; Dywana Smith, Claflin University; Tamara Butler, Xavier University/College of Charleston; Kristian Douglas, Clark University; Gwenda Greene, Voorhees University; Cynthia R. Johnson, Spelman College/University of Rhode Island; Damara Hightower Mitchell, Voorhees University; Janice Baines, Benedict College

01:30 - 02:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Conference Room 1A

Banana Pie: Semiotic Assemblage as Subversive Literacy

Presenter(s): Mohit Mehta, Texas State University



SUNDAY, MARCH 8

All is Fair in Love and War: Swifties, Conspiracies, and Popular Culture as a Battleground for Political Expression

Presenter(s): Emily Cobb, Clemson University; Brittany Beeker, Clemson University; Sarah Shealy, Clemson University

Conference Room 1B

Constructing Writerly Identities in the PreK Classroom

Presenter(s): Deborah Wells Rowe, Vanderbilt University

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: A Systematic Literature Review of Trends in Early Literacy Instructional Practices

Presenter(s): Kindel Nash, Appalachian State University

Conference Room 1C

Supporting Who They Become: Rethinking Mentorship, Teacher Identity, & Community-based Teacher Education

Presenter(s): Rebekah Adams, University of Georgia; Lindsay Coleman-Taylor, University of Georgia; Sarah Anne Hamner, University of Georgia; Jamie Hogan, University of Georgia

01:30 - 02:30 pm

The Nature of Love: How Outdoor Literacy Events with Teens Supported Positive Peer Relationships and Love for the Land

Presenter(s): Kristie Camp, Spartanburg Methodist College

Conference Room 2A

Critical Literacies Within Current Tensions and Challenges: The Experiences of Five ELA Teachers

Presenter(s): Caroline B. Rabalais, Georgia State University

“It takes time...to build on these ideas.” Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogies and Critical Self-Inquiry: an Ethnographic Consideration of an Early Elementary Teacher Candidate

Presenter(s): Betsey Norman, University of Massachusetts Amherst



SUNDAY, MARCH 8

01:30 - 02:30 pm

Conference Room 2C

Hehe Hell: Black Women's Use of Humor as Resistance and Joy

Presenter(s): Reka C. Barton, University of Maryland; Barrett Rosser, Morgan State University

Conference Room 3A

Making Teachers' Metacognitive Talk Visible: Supporting the Literacy Growth for Upper Elementary Multilingual Learners

Presenter(s): Haleema Khalil, North Carolina State University; Jackie Reylea, North Carolina State University; Dennis Davis, North Carolina State University; Xinyan Fu, North Carolina State University; Corrie Dobis, North Carolina State University; Bethany Lewis, North Carolina State University; Becky Huang, The Ohio State University

02:45 - 03:00 pm

Ballroom
Closing

AWARD WINNERS

Travel Award Winners



Caroline B. Rabalais is a PhD candidate in language and literacy education at Georgia State University and a high school English teacher. She previously earned her M.Ed. from the University of Georgia in 2018, and she earned her B.S.Ed. in English Education also from the University of Georgia in 2017. Her research interests include increasing educators' access to critical literacy in the English language arts classroom, understanding educational policy and its connections to surveillance in the classroom, strengthening the confluence of pre-service and in-service teaching, and disrupting book bans and challenges of young adult literature.



Josh Thompson is a rural queer Appalachian educator, writer, and scholar. A product of rural public schools himself, Josh taught English language arts for seven years in rural and rural-serving public schools. He is currently a PhD candidate in English Education at Virginia Tech. His research focuses on rural trans and queer adolescent literacy and critical place-based study abroad pedagogy for rural students.

Outstanding Reviewer Award 2025

Research in the Teaching of English (RTE)



Sara Staley is an associate professor in Teacher Learning, Research, and Practice, Program Chair of MA+ Secondary Humanities Teacher Licensure, and Co-Founder and Co-Director of A Queer Endeavor, a nationally recognized center for gender and sexual diversity in education. Her research and community-based work are animated by deep commitments to teacher learning and to safer, more humanizing school cultures for LGBTQ+ youth, families, and staff.

SPECIAL THANKS



College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



center for
educational
partnerships



**Center for Civil Rights
History and Research**

College of Arts and Sciences

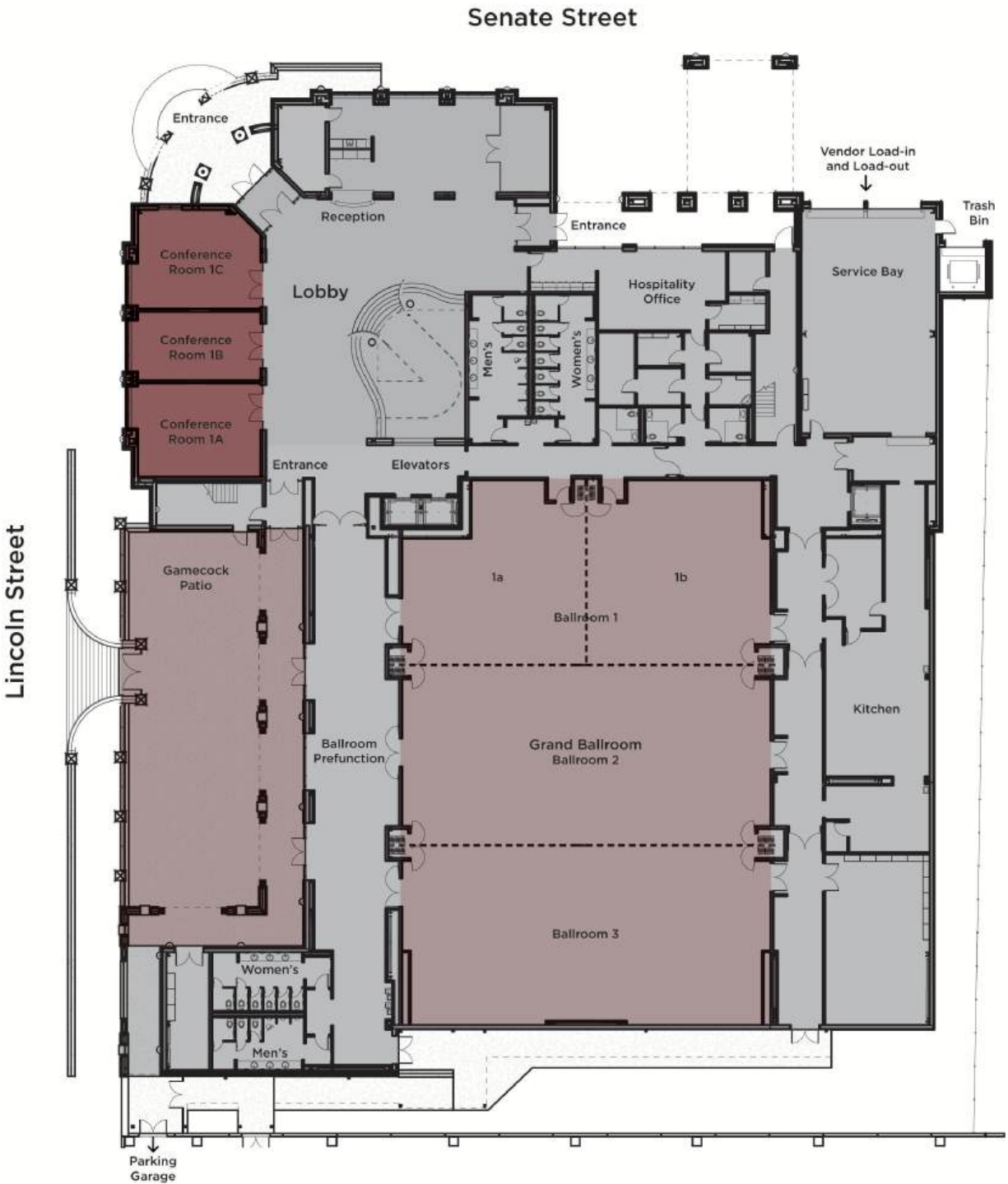
The Hungerpillar Endowment at the University of South Carolina

John E. Swearingen Chair of Education

CONFERENCE MAPS

FIRST LEVEL

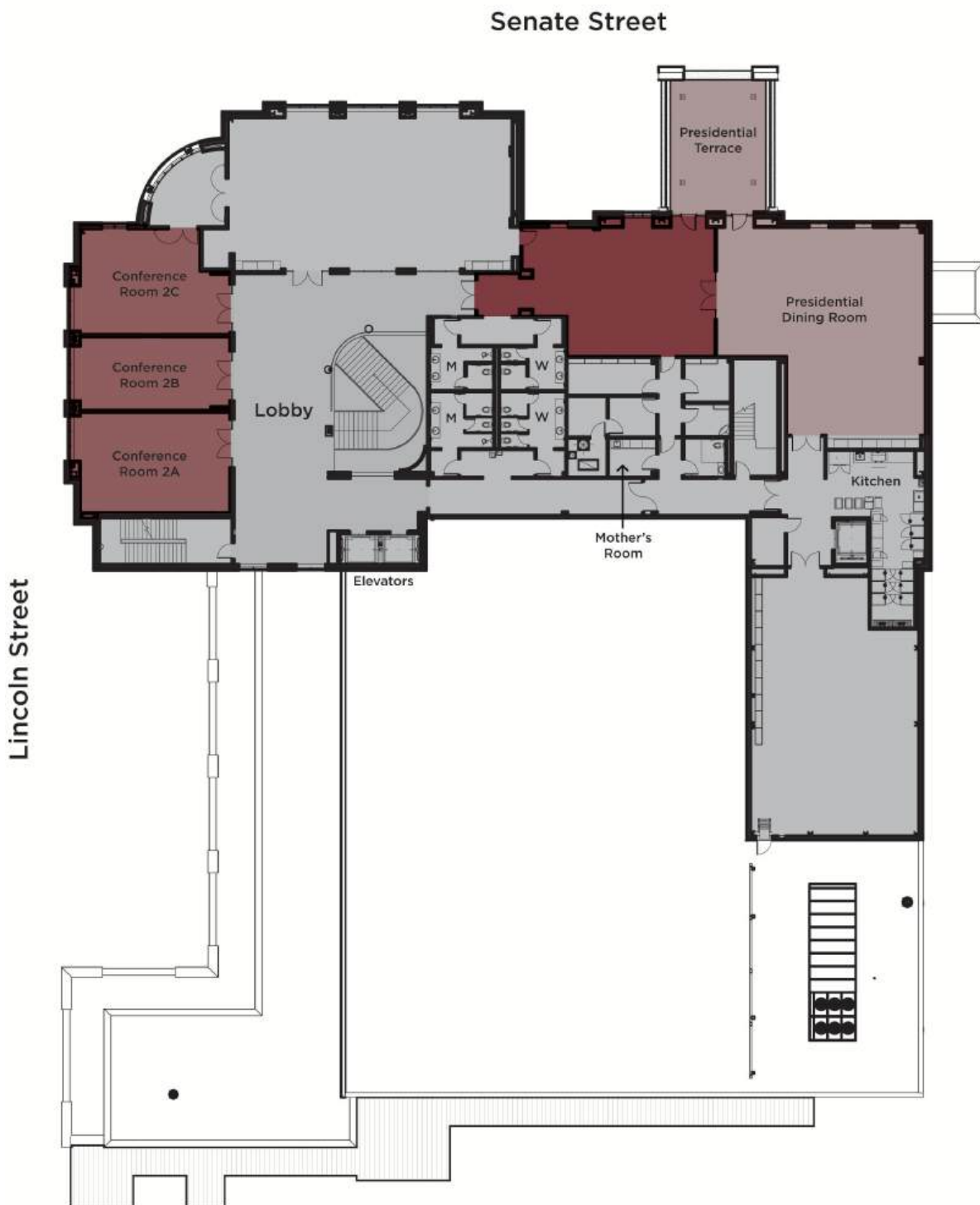
*Grey areas are non-rentable spaces.



CONFERENCE MAPS

SECOND LEVEL

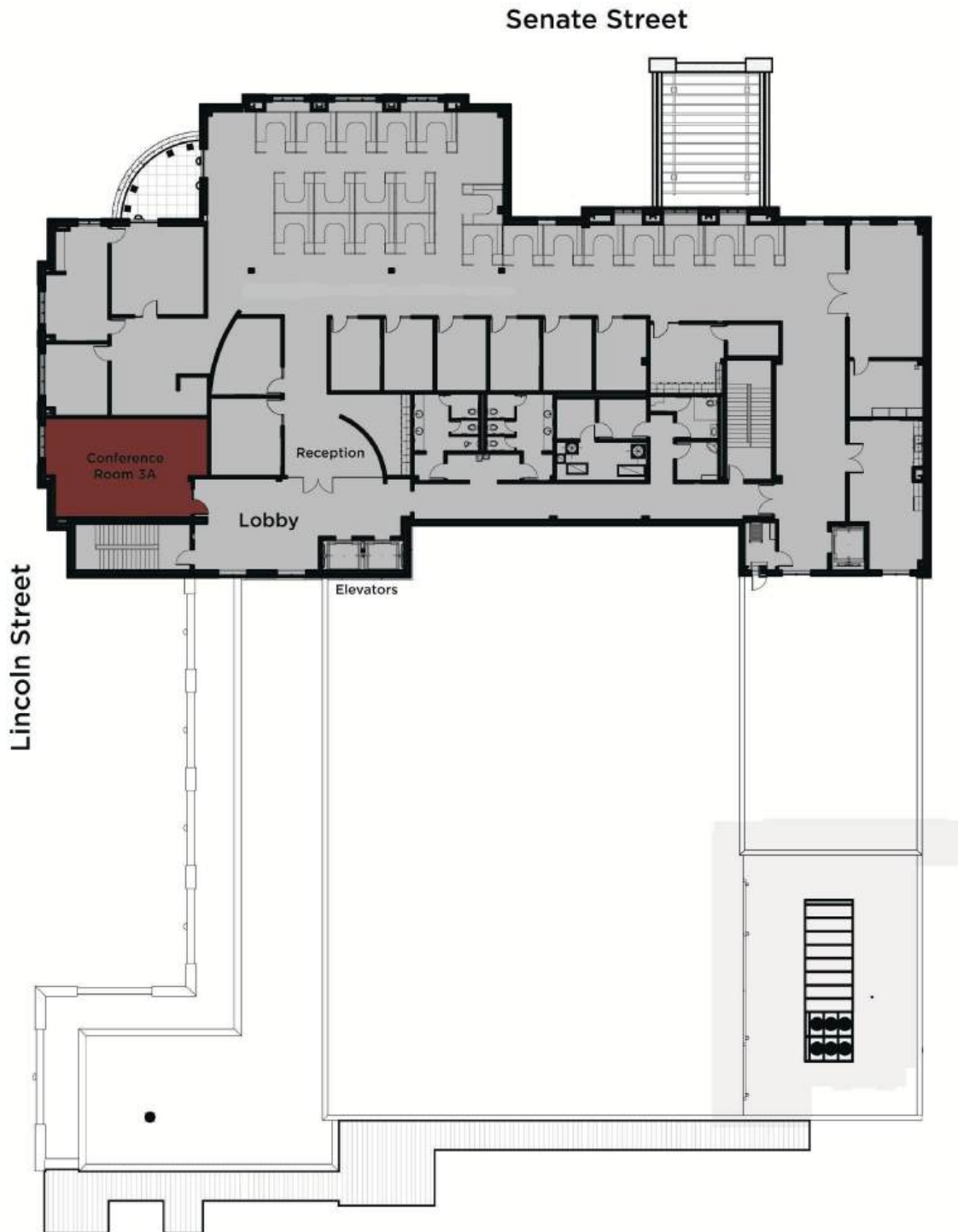
*Grey areas are non-rentable spaces.



CONFERENCE MAPS

THIRD LEVEL

*Grey areas are non-rentable spaces.



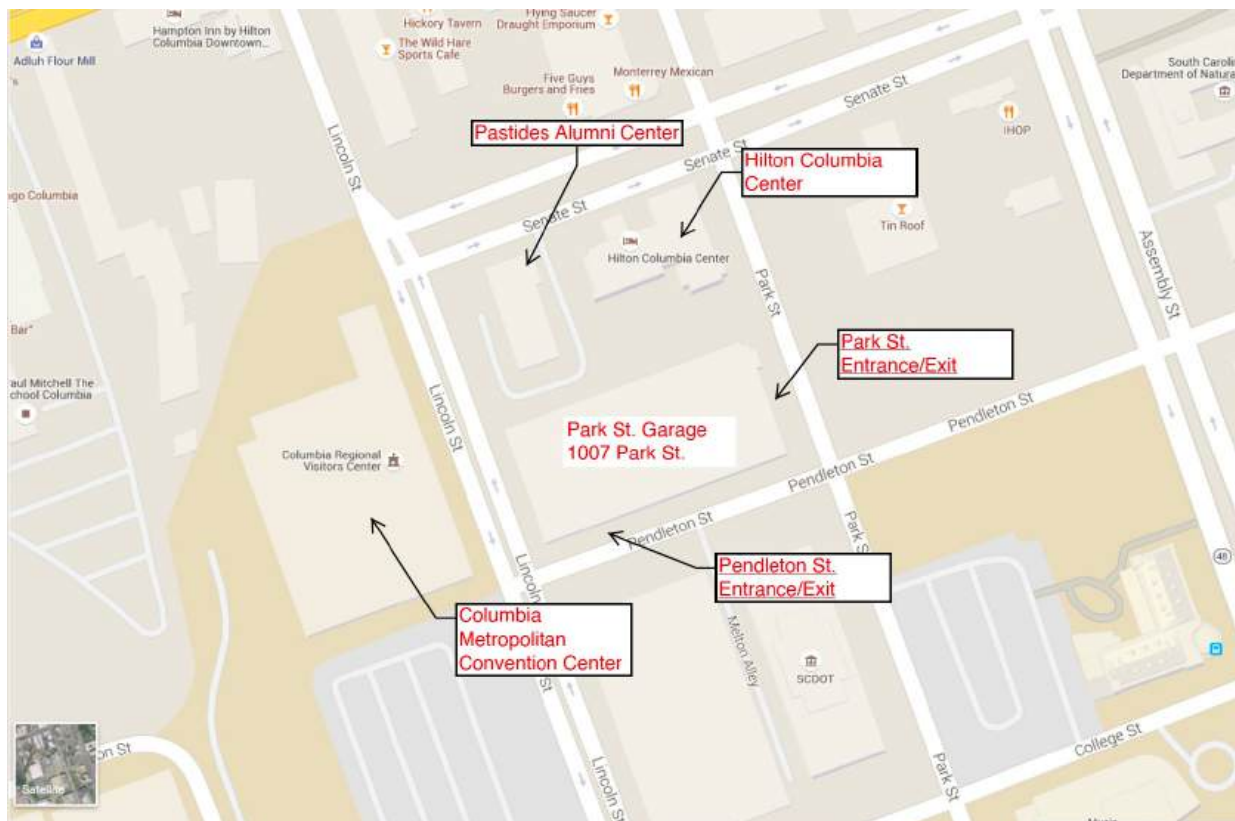
PARKING DECK INSTRUCTIONS

Entering the Parking Garage

1. Locate the blue button at the entrance kiosk and press to pull a ticket.
2. Once the gate lifts, proceed to the 2nd level of the parking deck.
 - * You will pass the Hilton Hotel's entrance on the left. Continue to the next floor.
3. The Pastides Alumni Center entrance is situated in the corner of the parking deck.
 - * Enter between the brick columns structure and follow the covered walkway across the patio.

Exiting the Parking Garage

1. Approach the parking kiosk and insert the entry ticket that was pulled upon arrival.
 - * Located under the screen on the left side of kiosk.
2. Kiosk screen will display the cost of your visit.
3. Insert cash or card for payment and gate will lift once payment has been validated.
 - * 1st hr. = \$2; Each additional hr. = \$1





GUEST WIFI INSTRUCTIONS

Windows

1. Locate USC Guest WiFi Network.
 - WiFi icon, bottom-right
2. Click on USC Guest, click **Connect**
3. Verification window will appear
 - Notifying to visit a login page
 - Click, **Create Account**
4. Enter information, then click Register
5. Verify cellular provider, click **Register**
6. Click **Sign In**
7. WiFi network expires every 12 hours

Mac

1. Locate USC Guest WiFi Network.
 - WiFi icon, top-right
2. Click on USC Guest, click **Connect**
3. Verification window will appear
 - Notifying to visit a login page
 - Click, **Create Account**
4. Enter information, then click Register
5. Verify cellular provider, click **Register**
6. Click **Sign In**
7. Sign in to portal using email address
8. Click **Accept**
9. Registration process complete
10. WiFi network expires every 12 hours



NCTEAR CONFERENCE POLICIES

NCTEAR has adopted the following Conferences Policies from NCTE:

- **Code of Conduct**

NCTEAR expects all participants to adhere to the following policies in regard to our Midwinter Conference. NCTEAR reserves the right to take action against any participant in the Conference whose conduct is inconsistent with these policies. Action may include dismissal from the Conference and/or termination of NCTEAR membership.

- **Demonstrations Policy**

Demonstrations and protests will be conducted in a peaceful and organized manner, will be within the policies of the venue, and will be compliant with federal, state, and local laws. Such activities are strictly forbidden in exhibition space, and protesters will not be permitted to block the entrance to traffic flow within any area. NCTEAR retains the right to permit protests to occur in predetermined areas and to terminate any protests that occur on its property or property NCTEAR is renting, leasing, or otherwise using for a specific time to host an event. Attendees who do not uphold these standards may jeopardize their membership and/or event participation.

- **NCTEAR's Mutual Respect & Anti-Harassment Policy**

NCTEAR is committed to producing events where everyone may learn, network, and socialize in an environment of mutual respect. Therefore, some behaviors are prohibited, including harassment related to gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, disability, race, age, religion, political affiliation, or beliefs; intimidation, stalking, or following; harassing photography or recording; sustained or repeated disruption of talks or events; inappropriate contact or unwelcome sexual attention; or any other conduct that NCTEAR executive committee finds to be unreasonably hostile, offensive, or humiliating. Participants are expected to observe this policy at all times in regard to the conference.

- **Health and Safety**

NCTEAR welcomes any individual who chooses to wear a mask during meetings and encourages all attendees to show respect for individual choices. NCTEAR will continue to monitor applicable health guidelines to the extent there are any recommended changes and may add new health and safety guidance or requirements should the current situation change. Of course, each individual should make an informed decision regarding travel and attendance at in-person meetings based on their own circumstances.

- **Use of Multimedia**

By attending the Convention, you acknowledge and agree that NCTEAR, or others acting on its behalf or through sponsorship or exhibitor contracts, may take photographs and video (by any means) and/or make sound recordings during the Convention (including via social media) and that you may appear in such photographs and videos and be heard in such sound recordings, and that NCTEAR may edit and use the footage it captures for marketing and promotional activities (including through social media) now and in the future, and for any other lawful purpose in the ordinary course of its business. Please be respectful of presenters and other attendees when photographing, videoing, or sound recording any part of any Conference sessions or other content. Please request permission of presenters before photographing or recording and/or posting on social media. Live-streaming any part of the Conference is prohibited.

NCTEAR